



CALIFORNIA GARDEN

IN THIS NUMBER

ROCK GARDENS FOR CALIFORNIA
PITTOSPORUMS
THE GARDEN
TELFAIREA PEDATA

NOVEMBER, 1927.

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Rock Gardens For California

By Prof. H. W. Shepherd.
Division of Landscape Design,
University of California.
(Courtesy of Pacific Rural Press.)

Home gardeners are zealous for information to enable them to grow the flowers that have their origin on the fringe of eternal snow, where "hills peep o'er hills, and alps on alps arise," that flood the lush mountain meadow, rock crevices and stony moraines, with the most charming bloom at the dawn of spring.

True it is, that many plants happy in the rock garden are not those whose home is that of the alpine region; nevertheless it is the home of the majority. Most all plant lovers know what is meant by the rockery or rock garden; however, when mention is made of alpinines there frequently is doubt as to the real meaning. These attractive rock garden plants usually require little space, and are so enduring that the hobby once ridden become so fascinating that a real enthusiast is the result. To realize the response of these miniature beauties of the hills to ordinary conditions in California, and to observe the revelation of the seasonal development of this round of plant life is a very delightful experience. This form of gardening offers an opportunity for the plant collector who feels the pinch of the small acreage. A rock garden may be one feature which will in every respect meet the requirements of unity in design.

If this feature is to meet the principles of design, then it must be arranged according to the requirements of these favored alpinines. What are the requirements of alpinines? It is obvious that the majority of these plants enjoy full sun. The common designation "rock plant" indicates that their growth is most favored in the shelter of outcroppings of rocks. Now by rocks is not meant great "gobs" as piles of cobbles, or crystalline, mineral-bearing masses. Plants know best, and those who have plant sense will readily discern that the rocks which are also alpine are soft, spongy, and moisture holding. The lime or sandstone rocks meet practically all requirements.

One hesitates to mention any particular regional deposit in California as immediately the promoters utter in terms extravagant the wondrous plant curative, and plant productive possibilities of their quarried products. There are many outcroppings in California which are adapted to rock gardens. Even the stream washed gravel with loam mixed

and washed makes a medium favorable to the growth of moraine loving plants. Those students of geology will recall that a moraine is a coarse glacial deposit at the base of these huge rivers of ice. The rock wall of the free standing class will also offer possibilities. Many plants that require shelter from winds seem to grow best in the crevices of rocks. A retaining wall may make a delightful vertical garden. There is so much to be said about a rock garden that one may conclude that it may be too exacting for the amateur. No, on the other hand, the requirements are not so many as to limit the owner of a mere slip of a backyard.

Moss-covered rocks, the kind that made the song of the bucket famous also, are some which are desirable for rock gardens. The local outcroppings may be ideal. Frequently the prospective rock collector looks to confine wide and far for the coveted supply, whereas the local lode is overlooked. From a rock garden standpoint, the neighbor's pasture may appear rockiest. Let it also be borne in mind that the rocks of the outcroppings and the soil should be somewhat related. Again some plants grow best when mounded up by supporting rock deposits. So much for the rocks. This subject may become inanimate indeed if we dwell further upon this hardened material.

The myriads of plants and plantlets which are adapted to these gardens are almost infinite. For this discussion and for those whose attention may have been held thus far, permit the writer to suggest that this list will be confined to a few of the outstanding plants which have proven successful in our local gardens. Of course, plant collectors must be up-to-date, and out of the "rocks" will be brought forth some plants which may prove worthy of more intimate acquaintance.

Californians! Lend me your ears!—Ho! the natives again. Some of those who hike the High Sierras and pluck as they go, may be familiar with some of the alpinines herein listed. Professor H. E. McMinn, head of the Botany Department of Mills College, has selected a choice few; and trust we all that many may be made available for those who have not learned the haunts of such as these. The plants are listed and described alphabetically.

Arabis breweri (Brewer Rock Cress)—a

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rocky summit native, 2 to 6 inch high, bearing bright red-purple to white bloom during the spring. It is found along the coast ranges.

Cacti—The low forms are best as *Opuntia serpentina*, *Opuntia clavata*, *Opuntia erinacea*, *Echinocactus johnsonii*, and *Mamillaria dioeca*. All require sandy soil and a sunny position. In these plants you have natural barriers well armed for invading hosts.

Cotyledons—*Cotyledon farinosa* (Bluff Lettuce) and *C. laxa* (Rock Lettuce) are well adapted for the dry rock garden. They are found naturally hugging the cliffs of the coastal counties.

Eriogonum alpinum—A dwarf native 1½ inches high. A beautiful little plant growing naturally in Siskiyou county at 8,700 feet. It is well adapted to an outcropping.

Eriogonum microthecum—A 4 to 10 inch native, with colors of pink, yellow and white represented. This plant is especially adapted to the garden, being a representative of the Sierra Nevadas—6,000 to 10,000 feet.

Eriogonum spergulinum—An attractive plant of the mountain slopes and Sierras 4-11 inches high.

Eriogonum umbellatum stellatum (Sulphur Flower)—A beautiful yellow flowering 3-5 inch native of the Sierra Nevadas and San Bernardino mountains.

Eriogonum wrightii—A beautiful native buckwheat 4-12 inches high of stream beds and mountain slopes and the Coast and Sierra ranges.

Pentstemons—Of these the varieties *P.*

breviflorus, a 3-6 foot native of the dry hills of the Coast Ranges; *P. cordifolius*, a scarlet flowering 3-8 foot native of the canyon and hill slopes of coastal southern California, and *P. heterophyllus*, a blue flowering 1-2 foot native of excellent character for the rock garden and from the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Phlox douglasii—A prostrate, tufted plant from the rocky sandstone ledges of the Sierra Range bearing lilac or white bloom in the spring. A choice specimen for the rock garden.

Phlox speciosa—This phlox is 4-20 inches high, and bears red to lavender bloom. It hails from the hill slopes of the Sierra Nevada. It stands heat and drought.

Polygonum bolanderi—Another representative of the Buckwheat family worthy of a place in the rock garden. Growing 5-10 inches high, graceful and enduring, producing white to rose-colored bloom in the summer. The Napa and Humboldt ranges produce this beauty.

Salix petrophila (Alpine Willow)—A diminutive prostrate specimen 1-6 inches high which deserves a place in rock gardens. It hails from the Sierra range peaks, 9,000-11,000 feet.

Salvia sonomensis (Creeping Sage)—A leaf mat out of which arises violet blooms in May and June, 4-8 inches high. An ideal garden plant naturally growing on mountain slopes and in canyons throughout California.

Sedums—Several of these perennial herbs are adapted to the dry sunny garden. They vary in height from 3-8 inches. Among the most pleasing varieties are *S. douglasii*, *S. obtusatum*, and *S. radiatum*. With the exception of *S. douglasii*, which is found in Lassen and Modoc counties, the majority are found in the Coast Ranges.

Before an approved list of alpine is suggested a few hints on planting both rocks and plants may be in order. Perhaps the questions of rocks may be ruled out of order; nevertheless rocks and plants are so intimate that one may hardly be considered without the other. Have you observed how firmly planted rocks are? When you see some rocks in gardens, you do not blame the fields for "laughing with the forests." Outcroppings are firm, and this principle should be emphasized to prevent these very amateurish attempts. The major portion of the rocks should be under the soil. Many plants obtain their moisture from crevices of rocks and pockets formed by the hardened, moisture-laden mass. Turn from rocks to plants again.

Satisfactory results are realized only when the various types of plants are considered. By this is meant those which thrive in dry soil, in moist soil, in sun or shade. The proper association of plants is also to be considered. Under natural conditions we find plants similarly adapted side by side. One plant may require the protection of another big brother. The habits of certain plants

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should also be studied that the garden may present the most attractive aspect at the time of its height. A few low-growing sprawling shrubs may also prove to advantage.

Most rock plants do not enjoy moving. This requires that the effect be studied first, and that the actual placing of plants be carefully considered. Small potted plants are best as the roots are not greatly disturbed when planting. The plant may be readily removed from the pot by inverting and gently tapping the rim of the pot against a board. The small plant is then snugly placed into its spot, and the earth firmed about it. Old pot-bound plants are not as desirable as freshly grown stock. Tap root plants should be given a deep pocket. As soon as planted the new alpine should be generously watered (not washed out).

When alpenes are placed in crevices, special requirements should be noted. The plants should be transplanted when very small. They should be secured to their niche by firmly packing the soil about the roots. The soil may be firmed by a stick. In some cases the plant may be placed flat against a wall or rock. The roots are inserted in the horizontal fissure, and firmly secured by packing of the soil after planting. During sunny weather it is necessary to shade by a small piece of burlap or an inverted pot.

(To be continued)

COMMITTEE TAKES UP PLANS FOR NATIONAL ARBORETUM (American Forests)

Plans for the establishment of the National Arboretum, authorized by the last Congress, have been discussed at informal meeting of the newly appointed advisory council. With the probability that an appropriation for the purchase of land will be passed at the next session of Congress, along with the deficiency bill, of which it forms a part, various phases of the project are now receiving consideration.

The Department of Agriculture has estimated that about a year will be necessary, in which to acquire land, before the actual laying out of the grounds can begin. In the plans already discussed, emphasis has been laid upon the research features, which are to be emphasized more than the recreational aspects.

The site, which has been tentatively selected, lies upon the Anacostia River, within four miles of the center of Washington. Part of the land is now under government ownership, and is being reclaimed from its original swamp condition. The location of the arboretum at this point means that eventually it will lie along or near the proposed new parkway entrance to the city. A new boulevard, which will connect Washington with the northern and eastern cities will, at some future time, be opened up along the Anacostia valley, in which the arboretum site is also located.

PITTOSPORUMS

By K. O. Sessions.

The Pittosporums, so named for their pitchy seeds, are very dependable shrubs for Southern California, as they are native of Australia and South Africa. They are quite variable in size and foliage and are grown from seed.

P. heterophyllum is a prostrate grower and is excellent for a sloping bank—a general ground cover or near a pool.

P. tobira and its variegated form have very fragrant white blossoms in a close head, are winter bloomers. They grow compact and sturdy but in time become large, but will stand extreme trimming so can be kept indefinitely. The variegated form is exceptional for its silver like foliage, and is deserving of more general use.

P. viridiflorum is like a large growing tobira—foliage very similar but larger—it is not common—and a fine specimen is on the south and front at the N. E. corner of Third and Walnut, Mrs. Nelson Barker's residence. *P. crassifolium* is a robust shrub, with soft gray-like foliage and it is one of the very best of the few shrubs that flourish very near the seashore.

P. tenuifolium or *nigricans* has a dainty foliage, black stems and makes an excellent tall and delicate looking shrub. It stands pruning, so can be used for hedges. This variety is not so sturdy here as in central California.

P. eugenoides has pale lemon yellow like foliage, leaves are wavy and it is also better in central California but is fairly good here. This is the large shrub set regularly along the path to the organ in Balboa Park.

P. undulatum is the best large growing variety and in general favor. Its sturdy growth, darkest green foliage and its orange seed pods fully ½-inch in diameter, are not only very decorative but very fragrant the moment the skin is crushed. This variety will make a very superior formal sidewalk tree and stands pruning. Specimen plants should be grown in the nursery before planting on the sidewalk.

P. rhombifolium is a very handsome large shrub and soon grows into a real tree. Its glossy foliage (each leaflet like a rhombus) of good color and the large clusters of small orange colored berries are held for many months and makes the tree very attractive and conspicuous. A fine row of young trees on Hermosa Way, Mission Hills, by the residences of Dr. Grant and Mr. Samuel Dauchy. A fine pair is on the Ft. Rosecrans Blvd a quarter of a mile before reaching Roseville.

One other large growing variety is *P. floridum*. Its foliage is very large and of good quality.

The very extreme in appearance from the prostrate grower, first mentioned, is *P. phil-*

lyraeoides—like an evergreen weeping willow, its abundant seed pods are large and bright yellow on the long and pendant branches, making a very attractive plant for a narrow situation or near a pool.

THE FLOWER OF THE HOUR

Formerly little known but becoming increasingly well thought of and universally admired are the many hued Transvaal Daisies.

As originally found, in their natural wild state in the Transvaal, South Africa, they were a harsh brickey red color but through the efforts of several European hybridisers the color has been broken up and now they come in an array of colors and shadings truly lovely.

Aside from their fascinating colors and graceful form they have so many other virtues as both cut flowers and garden subjects that I fear your credulity will be taxed as I tell you about them.

To begin with, they bloom the year through—an irrigation or warm rain stimulating their bloom and a cold period slowing it down but throughout the twelve months there is never a period when they are entirely without some flowers.

When cut they are lovely to look at for a period of 10 days to two weeks, no fading colors, no falling petals and no scattering pollen.

Potted up for Terrace or Patio they are equally well behaved.

Their colors range in reds, yellows and pinks that include an endless array of intermediate shades such as Scarlet, Spectrum Red, Peach Red, Orange Chrome, Salmon Orange, Mikado Orange, Rose, Rose Doree, Bigonia Rose, Hermosa Pink, La France Pink, Shrimp Pink, Cadmium Yellow, Buff, Cream and White.

All these soft lovely shades combined with the clear sharp colors of other flowers make a most satisfying contrast. Ever so many form and color combinations are constantly suggesting themselves as one handles these beautiful flowers. Pink Transvaals and blue Delphinium, orange shades with delicate sprays of *Thalictrum* and yellow tones with yellow Roses are just a few that have found appreciation.

These plants have made themselves perfectly at home in Southern California and as they are being planted more extensively further inland as well as further north, time alone can determine the boundaries of their adopted home.

As ever blooming perennials they can be planted at any time. One or two year old

clumps either from seed or divisions are the most satisfactory as they can be handled bare root and are not materially set back through transplanting. There is no flower grown that gives surer returns when the grower understands their needs and such needs are very few; a place in the sun all day or half the day, a deep thorough irrigation followed by a light cultivation and a little care in planting to see that the crown of plant is level with surface of bed and not covered with soil is all that they ask for. Constant sprinkling is not as good as irrigating at stated intervals and the frequency of such irrigation must depend upon the character of the soil and weather conditions. Our field is irrigated about every thirty days during the summer and with ordinary rains in the winter it becomes merely a matter of keeping the weeds out and the ground stirred.

Each year the old plants can be taken up and divided into the natural divisions that can be readily seen when the roots are out of the ground. When doing this all of the old leaves should be cut off leaving just one immature leaf to each division. They are deliberate in their growing and the temptation is to over water which does not hasten the growth and is apt to rot the crown. Plants divided are again in bloom in six months. Of course a plant does not have to be divided every year, in fact every three years is about right in the average garden when a thrifty plant should break up into eight to twelve good divisions.

In locating your plants, it is best to put them in a row in your cutting garden where they can be irrigated and cultivated and then left to a little wholesome neglect. Planted in front of shrubbery on the edge of the lawn gives them too much continuous water and will give you a large plant all leaves and few flowers.

As for fertilizing, that is a matter of experimentation. We do not fertilize at all. Our soil is good and they grow, thrive and bloom so we let well enough alone.

Growing plants from seed is fascinating but slow and many failures are met with by inexperienced growers. However, if you wish to try seed, we believe that fall sowing is the best and if you have success in germinating same you will be rewarded with a few flowering plants by next Autumn with full size stock the succeeding year.

Having grown Transvaals for the past seven years, we have developed a strain that is brilliant and beautiful as to color. Seed is only saved from flowers or sharp clear colors and in addition size of bloom and texture of petals are matters of consideration in selection of seed bearers.—Barbara C. Alpin, La Floreria, Ventura, California, Specialist in Transvaal Daisies.

The Nov. and Dec. Gardens

SHRUBS TOLERANT TO ALKALI

Compiled by Miss K. D. Jones.

Abutilons, fairly resistant.
 Acacia armata.
 Acacia cyanophylla.
 Acacia homalophylla.
 Acacia longifolia.
 Acacia pendula, Weeping Myall.
 Acacia pycnantha.
 Acacia verticillata.
 Arundo donax.
 Albizzia lophantha, medium.
 Arbutus unedo, fairly resistant.
 Atriplex breweri.

- D Berberis thunbergii, will grow within reach of salt spray.
 Broom, Spanish (Spartium Junceum), perfectly hardy, growing vigorously for four years.
 Berberis wilsonae.
 Berberis darwini, poor.

Callistemons.
 Cassia artemisioides.
 Casuarina sps.
 Colutea arborescens, Bladder Pod, grows in strong alkali, a slow grower.
 Coprosma robusta.
 Cytisus.

Dodonaea viscosa, will grow on seashore.

- D Elaeagnus angustifolia, medium.
 Elaeagnus pungens variegata.
 Fabiana imbricata.

Juniperus californica, California juniper.
 Juniperus phoenicea, fairly resistant.

- D Lagerstroemia indica, Crepe Myrtle.
 Lavandula vera, Lavender.
 Leptospermum lanigerum, Tea Tree.
 Leptospermum laevigatum.

- D Lilac (Syringa), do not seem to suffer in alkali, but are small bushes only 4 feet high when 7 years old. Do not bloom profusely.

- D Lippia citriodora, Lemon Verbena.
 Lonicera, white waxy berry, small.

Melaleucas, more resistant than most plants.

Melaleuca ericifolia, used for fixing muddy shores where water is strongly alkaline.

Melaleuca leucadendron, Cajuput Tree, withstands salt water.

Melaleuca nesophila, used for fixing muddy shores where soil is strongly alkaline.

(Continued on page 10)

THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

With the new and succulent growth that will follow the wonderful rains we have just had (this is written on 2nd inst.) it is highly important that we prepare for the garden pests that are sure to be on the watch for the tender young plants now making a nice start, as well as the older ones throwing out fresh growth.

Of these pests none are more persistent than slugs and snails and they are not hard to overcome if you "take time by the forelock" and start operations just a little sooner than they do! Calcium Arsenate and bran mixed at the rate of half a pound of Calcium to eight pounds of coarse bran and then wet so that the bran will separate easily when thrown on the ground, is one of the best means of ridding the garden of these pests. After an interval of ten days or two weeks try another application and you should be rid of these unwelcome visitors for quite a long time. If you want something already prepared try a package of Snarol, follow directions on package and you will find it equally effective.

For Aphis on sweet peas, roses and other plants use Black Leaf "40" at the rate of one teaspoonful to one gallon of water, add a little soap, either ordinary laundry soap or better still fish oil soap, which makes the spray more enduring on the plant and prevents the nicotine from forming globules.

For the higher growing plants not so easily reached by snails, to prevent leaf eating, use Arsenate of Lead and water, in the proportions as directed on package for the different leaf eating insects.

For Mildew use Bordeaux Mixture, one tablespoonful to one quart of water, or dust with sulphur.

For Mildew on rose bushes, rosarians favor the use of Fungtrogen, which is a new process spray, combining a high fertilizing value to the buds and foliage as well as a fungicide.

Another highly recommended but somewhat new preparation for soil treatment as well as a preventive for Mildew is Bac-Sul which is ninety-five per cent sulphur and five per cent bacteria, the bacteria making the sulphur very quick acting. Bac-Sul is highly recommended not only for its fertilizing value but as a means of opening up heavy soils, making them easier to work and more retentive of water, releasing natural fertilizers in

(Continued on page 8)

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ORIGIN OF SPANISH PATIOS

"What is a Spanish garden, and how does it differ from a French, English or Italian garden? Indeed, there is no other style of garden which is so totally unlike other styles as is that of the Spanish style. If we seek the reason for this we will discover that the factors which determined the style of any art are always the same, climatic conditions, traditions and temperament of the people, and, if we may name it separately, religion," says a garden expert.

"There are many reasons why the gardens of Spain have so little in common with the rest of Europe. Merely to say that grass is not indigenous explains much; further, the climate is utterly dissimilar—heat, no frost, and but little moisture. Even with natural conditions less different, it is unlikely that the Spaniard would have evolved anything resembling the vast English or French park, or the highly architectonic villa garden of Italy. The Asiatic tendency to seclude women during the dominance of Mohammedanism in Spain found its expression in a series of walled courts behind the house, not in a great open park surrounding it. There are no large estate and gardens in Spain. The many good examples which we find today in Spain are found in and near the cities. The Spaniard had little desire to be a country gentleman in the old Roman or modern sense. He demonstrated better than

any other what results might be obtained on a very small area of ground.

Spanish Gardens

"Spanish gardens are of two types, flat and hillside. The theory of the flat garden is a series of outdoor rooms walled apart by masonry and open to the sky; sometimes they are again subdivided by lower walls of hedge, or quite roofed over by low-growing trees, always evergreens; in the center almost invariably a fountain. The inclosures are referred to as patios. The conception of the garden, it will be seen, does not accommodate long alleys nor large pools of water.

"Squarish in form, the quadrangles rarely exceed 40 feet to a side. Dividing walls are of white stucco, and have, besides, the connecting, several arched windows with grilles or rejas, through which pleasant vistas can be had. Walks are either paved with glazed tiles or river pebbles, or are made of colored earth tamped firmly down. The object of this series of walled quadrangles is obvious; except for the few meridian hours of the day, the walls are casting their grateful shadow on either one side or the other.

"The site for the hillside garden was chosen for its views downward, and afforded the Moorish gardener the opportunity to display that which he most excelled in—the arrangement and distribution of water. Here, too, walls played a great part, introduced where not structurally necessary just because their white expanse was apparently considered an indispensable background.

"Both types of garden, flat and declivitous, were cheap to construct and to maintain. Another observation that applies to both types of garden is that green is a predominating color, and that deciduous trees are practically absent. Such trees as the cypress, low-growing box, the orange tree, pomegranate and holly. Grass, such as we know in our own gardens, was unknown to the Spaniards. He devised another sort of green carpet—Wandering Jew, ground ivy and myrtle, Iceland moss, hen and chickens, all planted thick and constantly cut back into flatness. In this way a whole bed of green is obtained, as well as neat, orderly borders.

Small Flat Type

"For the small, flat garden the system of planting is necessarily concentrated, since a large part of the area is given over to tiled ornament and pavement. The square, or patio, is laid out with paths, four to eight radiating from the central fountain. The bed area is usually green save for one or two flowering plants; or it may be of black earth kept well turned and dotted with two or three plants; or, more rarely, it may be a flower bed all of one kind, thus giving a definite color group. Where the bed has a tree in its center a generous circle of earth is left around the trunk, and this is frequently hoed

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up in order to invite air and moisture into the soil. Another item which plays an important role in the Spanish garden is baked earthenware in the form of flower pots, glazed and unglazed. The pots stand in never-ending lines, much as if they had been arranged by children. Garden walks are edged with them, flower beds are designed with them, parapets are crowned with them. In ordinary cases they are the usual terra cotta color; but when expected to form a part of a definite color scheme they are painted and glazed accordingly.

"Decoration by means of polychrome tiles is the principal note of individuality in the Spanish garden. It is no exaggeration to say that color is more often supplied by them than by flowers. Considering the tile fountain, it is not made to catch the eye at a distance, but to melt into and harmonize with the surroundings. Very often no part of the fountain except the actual jet rises above the level of the walk. Almost as numerous as the fountain is the tiled bench. Here, too, form is determined by the material, the bench being completely solid, with the face under the seat set back at an angle to accommodate the feet of the occupant. In the matter of tiled walks, one must be cautious; to create too interesting pavement is a great temptation. The best examples consist of unglazed oblongs, measuring above five by eight inches, laid in basket weave, with a small colored inset. Another method practiced in the old garden to enliven monotone unglazed paths was to concentrate rich color in an occasional panel the full width of the walk. Even old broken tiles have been gathered up and laid mosaic fashion to form such a panel with good results.

Irrigation of Spot

"Water seen and heard was a more indispensable part of the garden design than plants themselves. Arid Spain was made fertile by Moorish irrigation. The Moors were great hydraulicians, and what one sees today is a small fraction of what was at one time well developed. In using water as a decorative adjunct to the garden, the scarcity of the supply influenced the manner of its application. A very little had to be made to look like a great deal. Artificial lakes therefore could not be dreamed of, nor even pools of any size. Diminutive conduits ran from tree to tree and from shrub to shrub. In the case of terraces, water was often carried from one level to another in the concave ramp of a step. Whatever served this purpose, it was open and visible, and the water was made to show itself in as many places as possible before it was carried off to the more utilitarian fruit and vegetable garden. This endeavor to squeeze decorative benefit out of the last drop has resulted in special designing of fountains and basins. The pool of a spouting fountain, for instance, is not drained

as it would be elsewhere; that is to say, there is not a waste below the rim of the basin, for then the effect of the play of water on the edge would be lost. As it is, it glides over, sparkles in the sun, and increases the luster of the tiles in so doing, then is caught in an outer gutter and carried away into an open canal.

"Basins of marble or stone have their outer brim faceted, by which device the volume of water spilling over seems augmented. Still another trick is to make the water reflect. Fountains are of glazed tile not merely because baked and enameled earthenware was a popular and inexpensive material, but also because its glazed surface makes a thin film of sunlit water gliding over it seem far greater in volume. Tiled paths are sprayed from minute jets, not only to freshen and cool them, but also to make them reflect and sparkle like a flowing stream."—San Diego Tribune.

THE GRAY GOOSE SAYS

There are some famous flower specialists in and near San Diego. The last flower show proved them noted, and notably successful ones. Why shouldn't all we lesser gardeners become specialists; we, who till the tiny yards that nudge each other along the neighborly little streets? Instead of looking like crazy quilts—oft slightly ragged—why not have one garden all petunias, another all verbenas, another—"Oh, pshaw!" you say, "We like originality and variety." So do I. From the flower show I carry a vast ambition to grow at least one specimen of everything shown. Then those brilliant Fall seed catalogues complete my fall. They entice one from the straight and narrow way that leads to successful specializing, into the broad road of a little of everything that ends in confusion and crazy quilts. It is fascinating to watch a new seed develop cotyledons, leaves, buds and flowers you never before have seen. But each sort of flower seems to need its personal sort of treatment. Also it takes eternal vigilance to save nurslings from the sparrow that flieth by day, and the snail that walketh in darkness. He who has limited time, limited strength, and limited means—especially the latter—should not indulge in unlimited floral experiments lest his fate be that of the poor millepede.

This thousand legged worm met an ant. Ants are always questioning as well as questionable. The ant was returning from an "Ask-me-another" party, so he said: "Do tell me by what system of Mnemonics you remind yourself just which foot to put before the other?" The millepede paused to consider and count his toes, and became so twisted and tumbled-up-and-down in his mind that the poor thing curled up and died.

Don't be a thousand legged worm, be a Specialist.

NOVEMBER WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO

Dean Blake.

To many, November weather in San Diego is the most enjoyable of the year. The air is usually clear and invigorating, and the humidity at its lowest annual ebb. Sunshine normally is plentiful, and this month has the highest percentage of any of the twelve. As in September and October, we are apt to have two or three days of warm, very dry, dessicating weather, but in general the temperature is mild and balmy in the daytime, and cool and bracing during the night.

Severe storms are practically unknown during the month, and only four days with rain may be expected. Strong winds also are very infrequent.

At this time the frost season begins. Light frost occasionally occurs in the lowlands of the city towards the end of the month, but back from the coast heavy to killing frost can be expected.

Statistics show us that since 1871 there have been four Novembers with a maximum temperature above 90 degrees. However, the mean maximum is about 67 degrees, and the mean minimum about 52 degrees. The rainfall averages .90 inches, but varies greatly from year to year. Sunshine percentage is 77, with 18 clear, 7 partly cloudy and 5 cloudy days.

MACADAMIA NUTS

From the Bureau of Plant Introduction, at Washington, D. C., Mr. C. C. Thomas and Mr. J. E. Morrow write the following facts concerning the Macadamia nut, which was mentioned in a late number of the California Garden Magazine:

Major John Stafford, 3592 Front Street, San Diego, has sent samples of nuts from his bearing tree and they have a thinner shell than any we have observed before and we shall watch with interest the development of these nuts. The very hard shell of this nut is its only fault and eventually machinery could be invented for cracking them—but if a thinner shelled strain is developed, it would be a decided benefit.

Prof. Newton B. Pierce of Santa Ana, in 1906 began planting this macadamia nut from imported, guaranteed seed and there are now some fine bearing trees in that city. Santa Barbara also has a few bearing trees.

That the California Garden is read and is a helpful journal to the plant lovers and growers is proven by the response to the inquiry concerning *Pernettya mucronata*. I received six plants from San Francisco and the address of growers in Seattle who list five different colors. The Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens at Pasadena have them in stock this year, for the first time. This information was much appreciated.

K. O. SESSIONS.

FREESIAS WE KNOW NOT

L. Bolus of the Botanic Garden, Kirstenbosch, describes in South African Gardening three species of *Freesias* that are grown there and which apparently are unknown to commerce. *F. andersoniae* is said to be common in West Griqualand, the flowers being orange, bordered with purple, and deliciously fragrant. *F. fergusoniae* in its native haunts at Riversdale and at Kirstenbosch, flowers from June to August (the African Spring). The prevailing color is yellow, splashed dull orange, but the flowers have little odor. *F. metelerkampiae* is sweetly scented, the color varying from greenish yellow with orange and purple shadings, to pinkish purple. Neither of these species are listed in current works, but it would appear that they all are distinct and might prove serviceable for breeding.—Florists' Exchange.

THE GARDEN

(Continued from page 5)

the soil not before available and preventing mildew. The most favorable season for the use of Bac-Sul is during the rainy season. This preparation has been used very successfully by many of the bulb growers around Encinitas and Carlsbad.

In the flower garden, now that we have had a good rain and atmospheric conditions are more favorable for plant growth, do not neglect to plant seeds and plants of annuals and perennials before cooler conditions of soil and air begin to slow things up generally in the garden.

Set out plants of snapdragons, columbine, calendula, Canterbury bells, fox glove, delphinium, cineraria, clarkis, coreopsis, gailardia, dimorpotheca, schizanthus and many others and continue to set out bulbs of *Narcissus*, Darwin Tulips, *Anemones*, *Ranunculus*, *Sparaxis*, *Ixias*, *Calla* and Regale Lilies, not forgetting the yellow *Calla*.

You will find it easier to raise sweet peas now than earlier in the season and the Early Blooming Spencers are generally conceded to be the best to plant until about up to the New Year.

Look after weeds and don't let them use up the plant foods in your ground, and spade up vacant spaces in the garden for future planting, leaving a rough open surface to permit sun and air to penetrate and also to take full advantage of any rainfall we may have.

Plan your rose garden now, to be planted in January or February, and spade deeply using well rotted manure.

Stimulate the rose bushes already planted with a dressing of Blood and bone worked into the surface of the soil, it will help the blooms wonderfully and try a little Bac-Sul and see if it will not help to control that mildew, which so often bothers some of your bushes.

STRAY THOUGHTS

By Peter D. Barnhart.

Phoenix canariensis Palms are the most majestic, the most beautiful of all the Palms grown in the open in this Southland.

The long feathery foliage waves gracefully in a gentle wind, yet so strong are they that no wind ever yet has been violent enough to break the foliage and mar the beauty of the tree.

True it is, the lower leaves die and must be cut away bi-ennially if the beauty of the tree is to be preserved.

This pruning process leaves the bole anything but beautiful. This disfigurement may easily be overcome if twelve inches of the leaf stem, known botanically as the Petiole is left on the tree.

In these clefts, which are filled with fibre, Boston Fern, *Nephrolepis bostoniensis*, finds a congenial home, and if given attention, will completely hide its abiding place.

Asparagus sprengeri, in combination with Ivy Geranium, and *Bilbergia nutans* is another form of decoration, very pleasing to the eye. When this combination is used, the thought must be kept in mind that *Asparagus* is a gross feeder, and to keep it luxuriant, bone meal must be applied at least once a year.

Another form of decoration is the use of either one of the two species of climber known as Boston Ivy: *Ampelopsis Veitchii* or Virginia Creeper: *Ampelopsis hederacea*.

These are planted in the soil and climb the trunk. They, too, must be fed if they are to look luxuriant. Deciduous, both of them, they give us pleasing Autumn colors, and bare boles for a season, but when the warm days of spring return, they are clothed again with bright, clean garments of green.

I well know of the prejudice against deciduous trees and vines on this Southland, nevertheless some of them give us a pleasing contrast during a part of the year which evergreens lack, and the two vines here named belong to that class.

Feather Flowers

Artificial Flowers are atrocities, no mistake about that.

Decry them if we will, and as much as we may, the fact remains, our wives, our daughters, our sweethearts, will wear them when they fare forth to display themselves to we men, and in all truth, they make a hit every time. They know it, yes and we know it too.

A number of years ago two sisters in an Eastern city began to make artificial flowers from feathers. After seeing them, the flowers not the girls, and learning of their durability, I am frank to say that for beauty and lasting qualities, they are infinitely superior to those made from any other material that I know about.

To the woman who is not content when dolled up, without a huge bouquet on the left shoulder, this class of flowers will fill the bill to perfection.

CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

The annual Chrysanthemum show was held Thursday afternoon, October 27th, in the Floral Building. During the course of the afternoon, although the weather was not propitious several hundred people came to admire the beautiful display.

Mrs. Erskine Campbell had a most lovely exhibit not for competition.

Mrs. Jennie Owens received "firsts" for "Best Basket of Chrysanthemums," "Best Collection of Pompons" and "Best Other Chrysanthemums."

Mrs. A. D. Robinson received a "second" in the last class, and Mrs. Hermance a "Reward of Merit."

Mrs. Strahlman had a beautiful exhibit which received a "Reward of Merit."

In the professional class, the Monarch Bulb Co. of La Mesa received a "Reward of Merit."

Those taking part in the exhibit are to be commended and it is to be hoped that next year even more will compete.

The Association netted the following amount:

Sale of Flowers.....	\$ 6.90
Silver Offering	6.45
Total	\$13.35

Several boxes of beautiful Chrysanthemums were sent to the Naval Hospital.

WINIFRED SINCLAIR (Secretary).

OCTOBER MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was held in the Floral Building in Balboa Park Tuesday, October 18th, at 7:30 p. m.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Greer, who also gave a short report of the financial results of the Fall Flower Show, which were most gratifying, the profit being greater than at any previous Fall show.

The resignation of Mr. Hill, secretary for the past year, to take effect this next month was announced to the members and regretfully received.

All were urged to attend the Chrysanthemum Show October 27th in the Floral Building and to bring flowers when possible.

Miss Waterman was then introduced and she spoke briefly but urgently on behalf of the coming bond election for a municipal beach.

The speaker of the evening was then introduced, Mr. Walter Birch, whose subject

was "Seasonal Plantings." Mr. Birch first emphasized the necessity for preparing the soil properly, which so many of us neglect to do. Various excellent fertilizers were enumerated and then the flowers themselves which should be started at this time.

He emphasized especially sweet peas which thrive best if planted now. He named many annuals, perennials and bulbs to choose from.

After a most interesting and instructive talk Mr. Birch kindly answered questions upon which the meeting adjourned and all present enjoyed dainty refreshments.

WINIFRED SINCLAIR.

THALICTRUM DIPTEROCARPUM

This seems often a rather difficult plant to grow, as it requires not only partial shade but very well drained soil. One gardener had such remarkable success that he investigated the subsoil when the plants were dormant and to his surprise he found an old dump heap of brick ends and mortar rubble. The top soil was good but only a foot deep.

We hardly appreciate what good drainage means to good root growth, and consequently a fine top development. Any roughly filled-in hillside or shallow canyon with a foot of good soil on top to give the first roots a chance to get started will soon outstrip a level location with good soil, because of the drainage. I have heard of good fruit trees being raised on an old ore dump with only a couple of wheelbarrow loads of good soil to begin with.

K. O. SESSIONS.

SHRUBS TOLERANT TO ALKALI

(Continued from page 5)

D Mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*).

Myoporum laetum.

Palms, will live in 2% alkali.

Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia argentea*).

Phormium tenax, New Zealand Flax.

D Pear.

Plumbago capensis.

D Pomegranate, all varieties strongest.

Prunus ilicifolia.

Prunus ilicifolia integrifolia.

Roses will do well up to 1%.

D Tamarix, in variety.

D Tamarix gallica.

Yuccas, strongest.

D—Deciduous.

TELFAIREA PEDATA

By Charles Francis Saunders.

Something over a century ago, an Irishman by the name of Charles Telfair settled in Mauritius, the Ile de France which is the scene of the famous old romance "Paul and Virginia." There he practiced surgery, studied the flora of that island and the neighboring region, and became superintendent of the Royal Garden. He was an enthusiastic collector and for many years carried on a correspondence with Sir William Hooker at Kew, sending him seeds and specimens, and was instrumental in giving to the world of science and horticulture its knowledge of many beautiful and curious plants. Among these was a remarkable perennial vine of the Gourd Family, which had been introduced into Mauritius by a Mr. Bojer from Pemba on the East African coast near Zanzibar, where it was indigenous at the margins of forests, clambering up into the trees and enveloping them with its branches.

Telfair sent seeds of the vine to England in 1825 and they were germinated under glass. The seedlings grew like Jack's beanstalk, fifty-six feet the first season, and within a year were in bloom. The flowers proved to be of distinct sexes, borne on separate plants, with curiously fringed, purple-lobed corollas, the staminate especially striking in showy racemes. Hooker named the plant in honor of his correspondent, calling it *Telfairea pedata*. It was a rampant grower, so much so that if left to itself it would in a comparatively short time completely fill an ordinary greenhouse, and needed severe pruning to be kept in bounds. A surprising feature, too, was the fruit—an oblong, squash-like affair, longitudinally deep furrowed, and sometimes as much as three feet long and weighing fifty or sixty pounds. The seeds were very numerous—in one fruit 264 were counted—and remarkable in appearance. A few of these seeds were given me recently and I can speak of them at first hand. They are round and flattish, about an inch in diameter and a quarter of an inch thick, and are covered with a close fitting fibrous mesh. Inside this is a very hard shell enclosing an oily, edible kernel, which possesses much the taste and consistency of a Brazil nut. Telfairea seeds (called koumé in Zanzibar) are an article of commerce in parts of tropical Africa, used both for eating and in the manufacture of an oil which, they say, is a good deal like olive oil. The last edition of Bailey's *Cyclopedia of American Horticulture* pictures this seed among other famous seeds in the article on Nuts, and anyone having access to Curtis's' *Botanical Magazine* (from which, by the way, I have taken some of the facts mentioned above) will find leaf, flowers and fruit pictured in color in plates 2681, 2751 and 2752.

Bailey states that *Telfairea pedata* was introduced into Southern California in 1900. Does any reader of the California Garden know if any specimens are still in existence?

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY PLANS YEAR OF INTENSIVE PROGRESS

Advice on How to Know and Grow Better Blooms Available at Fall Show

By S. B. Osborn.

"To increase the general interest in the cultivation and improve the standard of excellence of the rose for all the people," the American rose society was organized in 1899. As late as 1915 this society numbered only 286 members in a few eastern states. The ambitions of the charter members, however, were not to be denied for the end of 1926 found the society with 4963 members—scattered in every state and province of the United States and Canada, and including memberships in 28 foreign countries.

Rose interest is universal, and with countless new varieties introduced annually the American rose society issues an annual that fills an urgent need for authoritative, accurate and truthful sources of information concerning them. Other current rose news of interest and value is contributed by prominent rose specialists throughout the world, on virtually every phase of rose culture.

Last February a group of local rose enthusiasts met and formed an affiliated body known as the San Diego Rose society. The only necessary qualification for membership being a lover of roses, the local society now numbers close to a hundred members.

The local group has enjoyed a series of delightful and educational meetings. The year's activities included a pilgrimage to the finest rose gardens in southern California, accompanied by Dr. E. M. Mills, president emeritus of the national organization.

A dinner in his honor was given the following week, and a Sunday "rose festival" held. Dr. Mills delivered an eloquent address, "The Ministry of the Beautiful." This rose service was broadcast by radio, so that rose lovers throughout the country might hear and enjoy it. Incidentally, the advertising did San Diego no harm.

The late Jesse A. Currey, who was largely responsible for Portland's rose prominence as understood at present, was honored at a luncheon and gave a stirring talk on the value of a municipal rose garden. Many similar programs are anticipated for 1928.

San Diegans who contemplate rose planting this coming season will be benefited by attending the fall rose show, sponsored by the San Diego Rose society. Here may be seen the roses that thrive best under local conditions of climate, and a satisfactory selection can be made of those that appeal to the individual taste.

HANDSOME BERRIED SHRUBS

Decorative Sorts Which Are Easy To Grow

Beds and borders under trees can be utilized with great effect by growing some berried shrubs there. The following sorts are adaptable for this purpose, and are very decorative during late autumn and winter. They are not partial as to soil, and one can readily feel assured of success with them.

Barberry.—*Berberis candidula*, a dwarf evergreen tree, producing purple colored berries; *B. Bealei*, fruit black with purplish bloom, handsome yellow-marked leaves; *B. dulcis*, flowers golden-yellow, pleasantly scented, carrying rich purple fruit; *B. Stapfiana*, habit dwarf with yellow flowers, fruit coral-red in short panicles; *B. Irwinii*, a splendid carpeting variety, useful also for the rockery; *B. subcaulalata*, a compact bush with small leaves of a beautiful glaucous tint, producing coral-red berries, which are exceedingly attractive in the autumn, and one which would lend itself as a center subject for a large bed; *B. verruculosa*, about 2 feet high, ovate leathery leaves, glaucous beneath, and flowers produced in pairs, followed by violet-purple fruits; *B. Wilsonae*, one of the most dwarf and showy of the whole family of Barberries, very spiny, with rich golden-colored flowers, producing coral-red berries in abundance; *B. aetnensis*, early in flower and a useful rock shrub, producing pretty red fruit. The two last named are deciduous.

Rockspray.—*Cotoneaster salicifolia* *floccosa*, broad leathery foliage, fruit bright red (an evergreen tree); *C. Zabelli*, ovate pale green foliage, with an abundance of large red fruits, deciduous; *C. divaricata*, a splendid acquisition with dark red ovoid berries, showy and useful; *C. applanata*, a decorative plant of great merit, with dark green leaves, retaining far into winter a profusion of brilliant scarlet berries; and *C. Forresti*, another charming shrub, producing brilliant fruit, and most useful for decorative purposes.

Thorn.—*Crataegus crenulata* is a useful shrub, covered in autumn with showy red berries.

Rhamnus.—*Rhamnus erythroxylon* is a tree of great charm, producing jet black berries.

Guellder Rose.—*Viburnum Henryii* is an ornamental shrub worthy of extended cultivation, the foliage being Willow-like and glossy-green, the margin of which is serrated, having a distinct yellow mid-rib. It produces coral-red fruit in autumn.

Spindle Tree.—*Euonymus europaeus* *fructu-albo*, a white-berried Spindle Tree, is well worth a position in the shrubbery, as it is in direct contrast to the common variety.

Firethorn.—*P. Lelandii* is one of the showiest of berried shrubs, an abundant cropper, useful for several purposes. G. L.

LATH HOUSE MATTERS

By Alfred D. Robinson.

I failed to consult any of our weatherwise folks this last month and so put in a strenuous day on the eighteenth taking down all the cloth shades from my lath houses, because I thought it was going to rain, and then followed the two hottest days of the year, registering under the lath 91 and 93; however, this peak was only for a short time and did no damage except to hasten the ripening of the remaining tuberous Begonias, and that might be considered a blessing even if somewhat disguised. Then the rain came along ten days later at the normal time and as the reports of it seem to vary so widely as to amount would say my gauge registered thirteen and then seventy-two hundredths. This finished the tuberous blossoms and benefited everything. Every season I have called attention to the fact that an inch of rain in the lath house is merely a surface wetting and may well leave things in pots and baskets, etc., dry, as the leaves can make a perfect water shed. Some of the Rexes for instance so shield the receptacle in which they grow that water from above cannot reach their soil. This is a dangerous time so far as irrigation in the lath house is concerned. The press has already made a deluge of three quarters of an inch of rain and has the country swamped, but it is well to consider that this is only the equivalent of one watering that you have been repeating a day or two apart, all summer. It is a good bet to turn on the sprinkler and well wet down all the lath house, then the rains really have a chance.

Leaves of the tall growers are falling fast and it is doubtful practice to leave these on the ground to be worked in. They are a poor leaf mould builder and their retention may possibly spread disease and pests.

I have had a report that lime applied to a pot of Saintpaulia as suggested in one of these articles was very helpful and I have given all mine a dose, and imagine I see a decided improvement, shall know by next month.

Since I wrote the last of these effusions I have visited our only K. O. S. on Mount Soledad. She invited me, she said, to get a few suggestions, but I suspect she wanted to show me how to really grow Begonias, for without her demonstration I should not have believed the growth hers have made possible in the time since they were planted. The Rubra type hang their blooms out of reach and vines of all kinds are weaving webs overhead. The lath house forms a background to the garden space and will demonstrate this feature as of the garden rather than just in it, a very desirable innovation. That garden is going to be, in fact now is, a very interesting place. Anyone who knows Miss Sessions

realizes she has a long list of pet plants, and they are all on deck with lots of new ones she adds almost every day. There is a cactus and succulent garden with grey haired old men cactus and leprous looking things and smelly things but it is darned interesting. The day I was there the heather garden was getting a coat of sawdust or something that looked like it and I walked on a crazy pavement made of a blue slate rock that comes from the hills back of Oceanside and I liked it lots better than mine made out of a busted floor to an erstwhile chicken house. I have often wondered why these scribes who deal in Slants on Life and Folks and such things have not done K. O. S. but there even they must recognize the subject is too big and I doubt if she would stay still long enough to be pictured in photo or words. I went through the house but I cannot remember anything about it, my pictures are all of things that were in it and K. O. S. telling their stories but I recall clearly that in one particular we are a pair, her desk and mine look alike—neither of us could find anything when we wanted it on a bet, and I am proud to have this similarity if nothing else.

Since writing the above it has rained again and as the last one deluged and swamped us we had to have this do somethnig different so it drenched us. Our gauge registered one inch and forty hundredths and water has begun to run uphill into our storage tank. Though this was quite some wetness it does not change one iota what was written for the last one, I can find dry pots in my lath house today.

This season has given the greatest interest in Rex and Tuberous Begonias, the latter must now be put away, and past experience has proven the value of powdering the tubers with sulphur. If you take them out of their pots go over them carefully and reject all that are not good and firm, a stiff bristle brush works well to clean them off, and don't try and remove the roots till they are dry and brittle. In storing them remember they must be watched to see they don't get dust dry. They are now off duty till the end of February. I find them peculiarly reluctant to quit this season and the hot spell in October started up several that were still moist.

I fear there is grief in store for many of the Rex owners, especially those whose experience is confined to this past year. They are seasonal and normally rest during the next three months or so but can be induced to work overtime with warmth and they stand house use or abuse better during this time, especially with young plants. Very few of the large specimens can be cajoled into this extra labor.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

Now when a Rex Begonia decides to call it a day it can more thoroughly lie down on the job than any other plant I know. It will drop one leaf after another till a mere scarred stump sticks up, looking as discouraged as a realtor when his prospect turns out a bond salesman. There is nothing to do with such but put them away out of the picture till they wake up. Of late years I have planted these stumps out in the ground and with few exceptions find them resuming business with good vigor in the Spring. I write this with a thought back in my mind that I have done it before and quite recently, but my life has been burdensome with this very matter for the past month. It is unbelievable how many folks have asked and telephoned, What is the matter with my Rex? and then comes this picture of a miserable stem in the centre of a big pot. For close to forty years I have lived with the Rex Begonia, at least forty times I have thought for five minutes or so that I had found out how to grow them and I suppose I shall keep up the delusion. They are the most fascinating foliage plant there is. To become interested in them is to at times forget father and mother and everything else and cleave to the Rex alone but don't let anyone allow themselves to think they KNOW the Rex. I am potting up some small Rexes, that is shifting from twos or threes and threes to fours hoping for good plants during the winter and I shall get a good many because these are young and foolish and can be cajoled but the old boys I don't try and push them. I follow along behind and clap when they decide to do winter stunts. As to that potting, I do not favor shifts of so little as one inch, as that means only half an inch extra space all round, and nothing but extreme care can do a good job, with the thumbs alone the soil cannot be properly packed in that half inch, especially if the potting mixture is of the moistness it should be, the top will be firmed but there will be lots of vacancies below. A ten-inch label or similar thin stick should be used to tamp. All this seems self-evident but I have found myself relying on my thumbs and in every case when I went over the pots with the tamping afterwards, the nature abhorred vacuums were disclosed. I am making this short shift which I do not generally favor because the Rexes should not be repotted at all at this time, and I am giving them the least possible extra soil.

It is time to think about planting seed. The Bedding Begonias can be put in now and will make blooming plants early in the Spring, and the Tuberous and others can follow as early in the New Year as you wish. Get your soil a good leaf mould and sterilize it, save some rain water.

I have that book, "Plant Autographs and Their Revelations," by Sir J. C. Bose, and I have read it with extreme interest. It is plain in language and adequately illustrated, and is very well worth while any plant lover's

time to read. You can learn from it, why a tendril clings, why a sensitive plant gets that way, and why some flowers open at night instead of the day. It removes a lot of sentimental mystery but adds much of other interest to a study of the ways of plants.

SMALL BULBS FOR ROCK GARDENS

A Selection for Amateurs

Narcissi are amongst the best of small flowering bulbs for the rock garden. Some kinds have the daintiest and tiniest flowers imaginable. They should be planted at once. Most of the dwarf Daffodils like a mixture of peat and sand, and are worth a sheltered spot, where they will not be spoiled by spring storms. The Hooped Petticoat Daffodils (*Narcissus bulbocodium*) are not very hardy and must be given a warm spot; the kind generally grown is a native of the Pyrenees, sulphur coloured; height, 6 to 8 inches. The white Hoop Petticoat is from Africa and produces its beautiful flowers in winter. *Gracilis* is the latest to appear, a rush-leaved Daffodil that sends up a scented flower, on a tall stem, in May. *Cyclamineus* is a lovely little flower and appears very early; it resents disturbances and may not do well for the first season, but it likes a dampish, peaty soil and will flourish in it for many years.

Some Charming Daffodils

Hybrids have been raised, some handsomer than the parent, but they are generally short-lived. *Narcissus triandrus*, the Angel's Tears Daffodil, is about 7 inches high and produces flowers with reflexed perianth. It likes a firm, gritty soil and partial shade; it also hybridises and "sports" to a remarkable extent. *Nanus*, a tiny trumpet Daffodil, is very pretty; it grew freely at my old home in Ireland and was always much admired by visitors who begged for roots. *Minor*, with a flanged mouth, is another beautiful dwarf trumpet variety, now rare and expensive; *lobularis*, height 8 inches, is the kind generally seen on rockeries, but it is inferior to the above.

Glory of the Snow and Grape Hyacinth

The blue of *Chionodoxa* and *Muscari* makes a pretty contrast to the creamy and sulphur shades of dwarf Daffodils. *Chionodoxa Luciliae*, blue with white centre, and *C. sardensis*, a gentian blue, are both well worth growing. *Scilla italica* bears little lavender flowers in April and May; *Scilla bifolia*, from the Taurus Mountains, is only 3 inches high and flowers in early spring. The Siberian Squill is also very dwarf, 3 to 4 inches, and looks particularly well grouped in front of alpine shrubs. The English and Spanish Bluebells are of this family, but they grow too strongly for the rock garden and should be kept to the border or in woodland glades.

Dog's Tooth Violets are pretty with their spotted leaves and drooping blooms. *Erythronium dens-canis*, the type, likes a fairly

moist soil but a sunny position. It should be planted now. The American varieties prefer partial shade and should be 6 to 8 inches deep. Californian White Beauty is a good one. Fritillarias will also do well on rock-work, and are curious and interesting plants. Most of them flower in May and do not like full sun. Meleagris, the Snake's Head Fritillary, is prettily chequered. There is also a yellow kind from Asia Minor, called aurea, which grows about 6 inches high and flowers in April. Recurva needs a warm position and likes to be near a wall.—A. W. in Popular Gardening.

BRILLIANT AUTUMN FLOWERS For the Rock Garden

Many people are under the impression that a rock garden has little or no colour in it from August onwards. Such is not necessarily the case if some of the later flowering plants are massed here and there and if such things are Aubrietia, Rock Roses, Sun Roses, Nepeta and Campanula are severely cut back after their first flowering.

Linum narbonense having flowered all summer will do so for a while yet and *Scabiosa graminifolia* and Lavender make large clumps of mauve. A very bright patch is *Geranium Traversii*, a low growing trailer of a vivid cerise, requiring to be kept well away from crimsons and reds, but quite indispensable as it flowers nobly no matter what the weather is like. *Potentilla* "Miss Wilmot" is another useful plant at this time, its pink flowers looking particularly bright straggling amongst *Nepeta Mussinii*. *Sedum Kamchaticum*, with deep crimson flowers, loves to trail on to a path and refuses to be killed no matter what treatment it gets, and looks well beside *Geranium lancastricense*.

Linum arboreum is a useful yellow plant growing a foot or so high and associates well with *Scabiosa graminifolia*. Red hot pokers must not be neglected, especially the tiny ones. *Kniphofia rufa*, that look so graceful and seem to radiate sunshine even on the dullest of days. A lovely gem is *Campanula abietina* with mauvy pink flowers about a foot high; it blooms itself almost to death and it is wise to cut it well back afterwards.

The Blue Plumbago

Grey leaved plants are essential and give variety and charm even in winter. A very pretty small shrub is *Potentilla Vilmoriana*, flowering in August and covering itself with tiny pale yellow blossoms resembling a briar rose. As it is not of the hardiest and has hairy leaves, it must be put in full sun in the moraine or in very well drained dry soil in an open position. *Androsace lanuginosa* flowers well into September and one of the very latest of flowering plants with me is the blue *Plumbago Larpentae*, which rather overdoes things by attempting to flower just as the frost comes to kill it. However, it al-

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ways comes up again with great fortitude another year to try again. Very poor soil is what it really wants and does not get in my garden.

The less common *Nepeta*, *Souv. A Chaudon*, is worth growing, coming much later than *Mussinii* and having lovely blue flowers like a *Pentstemon* but with rather a strong and overpowering scent. In shady places with ferns and *Primulas* a few plants of *Gentiana asclepiadea*, the willow Gentian, should be grown, making a bit of colour in the autumn with its dark blue flowers on long graceful stems about three feet high.

A "Fail-me-Never"

Of shrubs, there is *Veronica Autumn Glory*, a regular "fail-me-never," very often flowering right on to Christmas. August and September see *Olearia Traversii* in full flower, and the *Skimmias* look bright with their red berries. *Euonymus* are interesting shrubs with their lovely seed pods. A very pretty corner of the rock garden at the moment is a large mass of *Polygonum vacinifolium* with a young *Buddleia* growing behind, mingling its purple sprays with the pink spikes of the *Polygonum*.

Another way of brightening the rock garden in Autumn is, when possible, to have rustic arches put at the entrance to its principal paths. I have three which were made by the local joiner and they have made a brave show. One has *Rose Sander's White*

on one side with Rose Paul's Scarlet Climber and a purple Clematis on the other. The next has an Ayrshire rose with Hiawatha in contrast; while the third has Rosa Moyesii and Rosa Hugonis on either side, both of them briars and flowering at the same time.—Popular Gardening.

WHY HAVE AN ORDINARY GARDEN?

It is often noticeable that, although a garden may be full of beautiful flowers and foliage, there is nothing striking about the layout; something seems to be lacking. The garden, in fact, has no distinctiveness. There are several reasons for this, one of them being that people do not make enough of the possibilities of garden ornaments. Another is that ugly corners are left to take care of themselves with no attempt on the part of the gardener to make them beautiful; paths are too straight, and trees and shrubs are allowed to take on a ragged, forlorn appearance. These and many other little things, if attended to, would soon transform an ordinary garden into one of extreme interest and artistic appearance. A winding path often improves a garden and gives it an entirely different appearance; so does a shrub planted so that it blocks the view for a moment.

Charm of the Sundial and Bird Bath

Such accessories as a sundial, bird bath, vase, urn, or statuary give an air of importance to a garden. There is, of course, no need to employ all these, and so over-furnish; rather should there be a selected spot, well open to view from several quarters, where one can place a small unpretentious sundial or pedestal bird bath; these can be bought comparatively cheaply nowadays. If the garden is small, large pieces of statuary or ornaments should not be chosen.

Ugly corners, or spare or odd pieces of land, should be treated well, not left as an eyesore. Shrubs cover an ugly fence; flower-beds, a narrow border, bird bath, and crazy-paving all help to solve the problem in the treatment of an ugly corner that might easily become a rubbish heap.

Other often-neglected portions of the garden are certain parts of the lawn, especially round shrubs or small trees, and inaccessible corners where the mower cannot do its work, and in the vicinity of stone or brick steps. Here should be planted bulbs in quantity—Crocus, Snowdrop, Scilla, etc., for the grass may be left uncut until the foliage of the bulbs has matured. In the spring these spots become veritable flower gardens where one would least expect to find them. All these little matters make a small garden full of interest, and it becomes at once distinct from the rest.—N. Eastman in Popular Gardening.

INCREASING ROCK PLANTS

Some plants are very easily propagated by simply dividing and putting bits where you want them, but it must be done in damp weather otherwise they require constant watering and shading from the sun. The low growing geraniums can be increased this way, but hard wooded things like Rock Roses must be propagated by cuttings put into a frame. Seed can be taken from *Primula Sikkimensis* when ripe as it seems rather a doubtful perennial and does not survive division like others.

Woolly leaved plants like *Androsace* and some of the *Potentillas* must have glass over them if they are to survive the damp winter. A rough table can easily be made with a glass top, the legs being cut according to the angle of the surroundings. *Edelweiss* can be left without a covering as although it dies down with the frost it comes up again in the spring with renewed vigor. The Tibetan *Edelweiss* is well worth growing and has sweet verbena-like scented foliage.—M. C. Michael.

IS GARDENING A PROFESSION?

The question mark is intentional to call forth the query as to what the profession of gardening, if there be such a thing, really is. A profession is that which we have learned to associate with genteel lines of endeavor as, for instance, law, medicine, theology. Our idea of a profession is an occupation that involves considerable education, or its equivalent, and requires mental rather than manual labor. But no one for a moment would try to differentiate between gardening and work.

Are we really justified then in calling gardening a profession? The dictionary defines gardening "as an art, having to do with the planning and executing of a garden." In other words, it is horticulture. Art, however, implies the practical application of knowledge or natural ability, skill, dexterity, facility, or power. It may also imply a system of rules devised for procuring a scientific, aesthetic, or practical result, that is a branch of learning to be studied in order to be applied. We distinguish essentially between the fine arts and the useful arts, the former suggesting largely the exercise of the imagination, and the latter the skill and ingenuity of the artisan. If then gardening is an art, and of this there is hardly any doubt, it must be both a fine and a useful art, and the definition has much to commend it—to repeat, "gardening is an art having to do with the planning and executing of a garden."

The planning calls for all the finer qualities of the imagination, usually associated with the fine arts, while the execution of the plans demands a display of ability and power.

Gardening is then not merely an art but an art that must be studied and studied well in order to be applied. Since a profession demands a certain amount of learning, we may safely call gardening a profession. But it is a profession that calls equally upon the mental and manual faculties of its followers. Just as it is both a fine and useful art, it is both a mental and a manual profession. Gardening needs therefore no qualification—it stands in a class by itself and embodies preparation that other professions unfortunately do not. Gardening is an artistic profession.

If we have allowed ourselves too high an ideal for our life's work, that is, if we have held that true gardening requires something more than mere physique and muscle, if it requires that a man's brains shall labor equally with his muscles, then we must revise the general conception of what a gardener is. It is hardly fair to say that the man who only tends a garden is one with the man skilled in gardening. The two are essentially different, and in desiring to make the distinction clear and concise, we are exercising the prerogative of every other profession. Too many men who lack the initiative and ability to plan for gardens, claim to be gardeners and unfortunately are regarded as such, simply because they labor in and about gardens. And this class of labor has not hesitated to make application for positions as gardeners, feeling that as they have worked in gardens, they are entitled to consideration as efficient gardeners. Yet a filing clerk would hardly assume to apply for the position of head bookkeeper, nor would the laborers in and around a large engineering project make a pretension of being civil engineers. There is as much connection between the average garden laborer and a skilled gardener as there is between the printer's devil and the editor. Gardeners should be as jealous of the high ideals to their profession as the members of any other profession, and the person who is not qualified by training and experience to assume the planning and execution of a garden is but a poor makeshift for a professional gardener.—National Association of Gardeners.

MAKING FLOWERS BLOOM OUT OF SEASON AS A FAD

By tinkering with the sunlight that reaches certain plants it has been found possible to force them to bloom out of season and earlier or later than their usual period. Horticulturists of the United States Department of Agriculture have proved this in several interesting experiments, and similar experiments are recommended to amateur flower fanciers as an enjoyable hobby.

From the experiments it appears that such plants as dahlias, African marigolds, pansettias, Klondyke cosmos, and late varieties of chrysanthemums do not blossom merely

because they have reached the proper stage of maturity or because they have grown for a natural number of days. Instead of this, and within reasonable limitations, they seem to produce flowers because the daylight period of autumn has shortened to the appropriate or natural number of hours.

With this to guide him, the experimenter can fool the flowers into blooming at unusual seasons. This can be done by covering the plants an hour or more before sunset each day or by taking potted plants into the cellar for an hour or two at the end of the day. This produces sunlight conditions approximating autumn, with a shorter duration of daylight, and the plants bloom earlier. In the same way it has been found that lengthening the short day of autumn and winter with electric light of proper intensity prevents these plants from flowering at their normal season. On the other hand, some plants, such as beets, spinach, and radish require long days for flowering, and hence may be forced by use of the electric light to lengthen the day. The horticulturists are still seeking the "why" of this behavior, which varies with different varieties of plants, but it has been determined that their growth and blossoming behavior depends in large measure on the length of the day lighted by the sun.

It is even possible to force different parts of some plants to bloom at different seasons by covering one part for several hours a day, leaving other branches and buds to enjoy the natural exposure. However, there are limits. Covering the flowers for a time in the middle of the day has no such effect. The day has to be shortened either in the morning or in the evening.—U. S. D. A.

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